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# PCSW

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women

*The State's leading force for women's equality*

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**Testimony of  
The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women  
Before the  
Public Safety & Security Committee  
February 17, 2015**

**Re: H.B. 6498, AAC the Timely Transfer and Processing of Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits**

Senators Larson and Guglielmo, Representatives Dargan and Zupkus, and distinguished members of the Public Safety & Security Committee, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) in support of **H.B. 6498, AAC the Timely Transfer and Processing of Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits**.

H.B. 6498 would require police departments to transfer sexual assault evidence collection kits to the Division of Scientific Services or the FBI laboratory within 10 days from the collection of the kit and would require the Division to analyze the kit within 60 days from collection.

The PCSW is an active statutory member of the Commission on the Standardization of the Collection of Evidence in Sexual Assault Investigations. This Commission is tasked with creating and maintaining guidelines around sexual assault evidence collection and has been considering and researching the issue of timely kit transfer and processing.

It came to light, through the Commission, that many police departments are holding onto sexual assault evidence collection kits rather than sending them to the State Crime Lab. From PCSW's perspective, all kits should be sent to the appropriate agency within a reasonable period of time.

The PCSW also believes that the analysis of sexual assault evidence kits is of critical importance and as such supports the creation of a 60 day time limit for processing of the kits in the State Crime Lab. Ensuring that evidence is collected, transferred appropriately and processed in a timely manner aids in helping to prosecute perpetrators of sexual violence.

We applaud your attention to this matter and urge the committee's support.